WHIRRAKEE

June 2010 Vol. 31 No. 5

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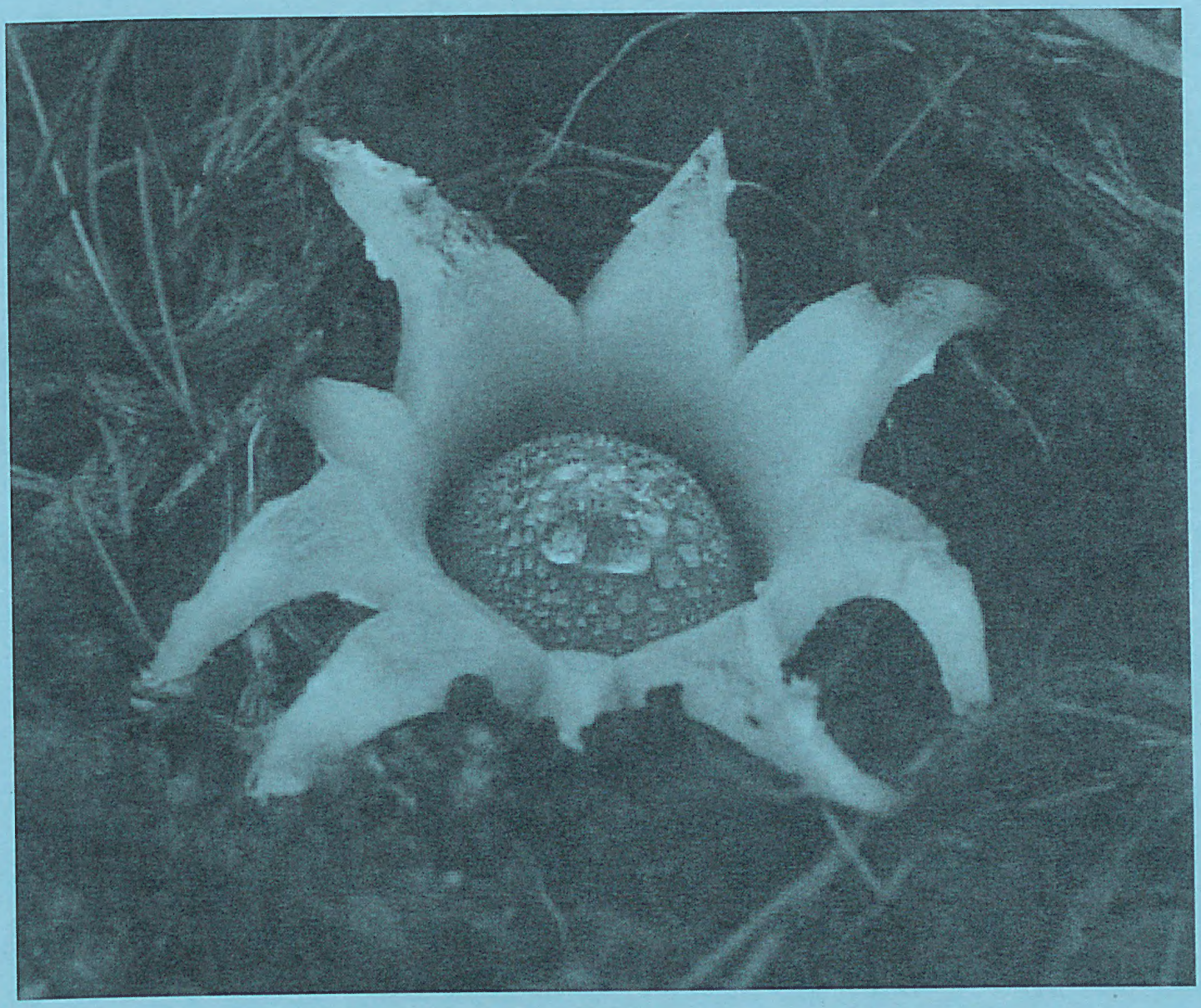

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE BENDIGO

FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB

Bendigo Field Naturalists Club Inc.
Address for correspondence: PO Box 396, Bendigo 3552
ISSN 0812-423X

Office Bearers for 2009 - 2010

President	Jan Orr	5443 5668
Senior Vice President	*position vacant*	
Junior Vice President	Matthew Comer	0409 162627
Secretary	Anne Bridley	5442 6188
Minute Secretary	Glenise Moors/Rod Orr	54396254
Treasurer	Rob Moors	54396254
Membership Officer	Anne Bridley	5442 6188
Excursion organiser	*position vacant*	
Syllabus organiser	Ben Goonan	
Librarian	Diana Collier (an assistant is still required)	5443 0137
Garden Convenor/Secretary	Matthew Comer	0409 162 627
Hall Management	Maurie Lewis (assisted by Rob Moors)	0407 427179
Whirrakee contact	Sabine Wilkens e-mail: s.wilkens@latrobe.edu.au	5443 2797

Membership of the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club is open to all those interested in Natural History. The subscription rates are: Single $34; Family $40; Concession: Single $28.50; Family $34. *Whirrakee* subscription only is $34.

General meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month. The venue for General meetings is the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, Old High Street, Golden Square. The meeting starts with a 10 minute thing-of-the night natural history segment. The invited speaker starts at 8:00pm and meetings conclude with supper. The Annual Meeting is held in September.

Committee meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:00pm. Members of the Committee are the Office Bearer listed above and the following members: Bob Ruddick, Ben Goonan, Liz Graham, Glenise Moors, Joy Clusker, plus *one position vacant*

Excursions are conducted regularly and are advertised on the diary page of the *Whirrakee*. The assembly point for excursions is the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, unless otherwise specified. Several interclub field naturalist campouts are held every year.

The Bendigo Field Naturalists Club has one sub-group (the Fauna Study Group) and is actively involved in local conservation issues. An **indigenous garden** has been established around the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building. Working bees are advertised on the *Whirrakee* diary page.

Fauna Study Group: meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm in the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building.

Chairman: John Burtonclay, Fadersons Lane, Mandurang (5439 5710)
Secretary: Bill Holsworth, 13 Nabilla Crs., Bendigo (5443 4063)
Equipment Officer: Maurie Lewis (0407 427179)

Bird Observing: Club members conduct regular bird surveys. Please contact Anne Bridley 5449 3479 or Glenise Moors 5439 6254 for details. Special bird observations should be reported to Anne Bridley 5449 3479.
To propose bird observing excursions please contact Kerrie Norris 5447 8017.

Front cover photo?...see page 2

WHIRRAKEE

Monthly Newsletter of the Bendigo Field Naturalist Club
Vol. 31, No. 5, June 2010
Whirrakee takes its name from the Whirrakee Wattle (*Acacia williamsonii*) which is virtually endemic to the Bendigo region

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Authors are responsible for the accuracy of the information they use and also for any opinions expressed in their articles. Contributions will be included as soon as possible after they are received, although articles received more than one week after the monthly General Meeting will probably be too late for inclusion in the next issue of *Whirrakee*.
Articles in *Whirrakee* may be reproduced, but permission should be obtained from the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club, and acknowledgment should be given to the author and the Club. Some back issues are still available on request.

Editor's Note
This is a trial edition of Whirrakee. Over recent time, some members have expressed the wish to have colour photos in the magazine, and this is our first go! Mind you, this one will be extremely hard to beat, if the photos come out the way they looked on my computer screen. Fingers crossed. If something went wrong in the printing, members still have a chance to see these beautiful colour photos of fungi after the June committee meeting, when an exhibition has been organised (see page 3 for details). The recent fungus excursion was such a spectacular success, that the photos and the report took up most of the magazine, even the space for the usual 'observations' of the previous month. A big thank-you to Rod, and apologies to those who read the observations with interest every month. They will appear in the July edition, along with the report of Peter Marriot's wonderful presentation of Victorian moths. More fungi can probably be spotted on the upcoming fauna and flora mapping survey to the Sandhurst Reservoir (see page 3 for details). This month, Matthew Comer has also planned a flying fox excursion and a garden working bee, so wrap up warm and get out there!

Front Page Illustration – Photographer: Rod Orr
Geastrum sp - Earthstar. This was the only one of the fungal photos that did not lose much by being printed in black and white. The ''Australian Fungi Website' says the following about Earth Stars:
'An Earthstar (the genus *Geastrum*) looks like a puffball on a star-like base. The spore sack may sit directly on the star-like base or be raised on a short stalk. The apical opening through which the spores are released may be a fairly simple affair, or more complex, such as the conical, pleated structure on *Geastrum pectinatum* . While a *Geastrum* fruiting body has just one apical spore-releasing pore, in *Myriostoma coliforme* (another type of Earth Star) there are several. (See the website, http://www.anbg.gov.au/fungi/macroscopic.html, for a photo of this other interesting species

Short Notices

June General Meeting Preview
Professor Andrew Bennett from Deakin University will talk about "Revegetation in farm landscapes: are there benefits for wildlife?"
All welcome, including all your friends and relations.

Committee members needed
As a consequence of Richard and Gemma's departure to the outback, there are now two vacancies on the committee. Can you help?

Two June Excursions

Great Dividing Trail Flora & Fauna Survey,
Sandhurst Reservoir area, on Sat 12 June 2010
We will be continuing the survey which we started last year.
Meet at clubrooms at 8:30 am. This is a half day excursion, and we will be back by 12:30.
Bring: binoculars, notebook, camera, morning tea, cold weather & rain gear.
Contact: Anne Bridley ph 5442 618

Flying Foxes Excursion
After John Lindner gave us his enthusiastic recommendation at recent meetings, that we should all visit Rosiland Park to experience the flying foxes, I took his advice and can agree that watching them fly out at dusk is quite impressive. I am proposing that we have a short excursion one evening to watch this spectacular wildlife event, which is as far as I know, unprecedented for Bendigo. I have chosen Wednesday 23rd June, and am thinking that we would meet at the fernery gates at 5pm, wander through the park for a short walk, making our way to the tower by 5.30pm. We would then have a short talk/discussion about the animals including aspects of their biology and behavior. Then watch the flying foxes begin to fly as the light fades, against the backdrop of the cities lights. If there is interest we could then go for a meal at one of the near-by venues at say around 6.30pm. Of course, this is dependent on the flying foxes still being there and also on the weather on the night. If anyone is interested in coming along could they please get in touch with me either at the June meeting or give me a call, particularly if there is interest in having dinner, so I can make arrangements. There is a fairly good chance that it will be cold up there on the tower, so remember to dress warmly! Matt Comer (ph;: 0409162627)

Next Garden Working Bee
will take place on

Saturday June 5th at 1pm.
Note: new time
We are trying the afternoon time, as some people suggested this would suit them better. Will be doing weeding, general maintenance and planting some new plants.

All are more than welcome

NCCMA Second Generation Landcare Grants 2010 -11. Call for Applications, closing date 5pm Friday, 16 July 2010.
Grants of varying sizes are available for projects which are aligned with regional & state priorities. Contact: Jodie Odgers, Regional Landcare Coordinator 5440 1883
email: jodie.odgers@nccma.voc.gov.au

Fungus Photo Display
Following on from our Fungus Excursion last month, we have organised a display of the photos taken during the excursion. This will occur in the BFNC meeting rooms after the June Committee Meeting, **June 16th, beginning at 7:30pm** - we have each agreed to provide no more than our 'best' 15 photos, so, it should be a short & interesting event for any members who are able to come on that night. The following article might get you in the mood....

Fungus Excursion to the Bullarto State Forest:

Author and Photographer:. Rod Orr

We had a well-attended excursion to this interesting area and everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy searching for fungi. The diversity of fungi in this wet forest is simply astounding.

A selection of photos and comments is shown on the next few pages, at the end of which, the article continues…

Aleuria rhenana - Orange-peel Fungus

Hygrocybe cheelii - Rose-pink Wax-gill - a tiny fungus growing on a mossy bank

Podoscypha petaloides

Boletus barragensis - a beautiful Bolete (has pores, not gills)

Phellodon niger - the milky mist near the centre, under the fungus to the right of the middle leaf, is this fungus releasing its spores! I thought it was camera shake, after all the extra care I had taken!

←

Armillaria luteobubalina - Australian Honey Fungus

Cortinarius archeri - the brown spores can be seen staining the ring on the stem.

Dermocybe austroveneta

Austroboletus lacunosus - a really interesting Bolete with an unusual stem

Mycena interrupta - Pixie's Parasols

Mycena kuurkacea - these were growing up a moss covered decaying tree trunk.

Ramaria versatilis - Purple Coral Fungus

Fistulina hepatica – the Beefsteak Fungus

Bolbitius musicola - at first, I thought that this was a fungus in the early stages of decay, but no, it was its normal colouration - I'd just never seen one of these before.

Ramaria ocraceosalmonicolor – these are just three of the many beautiful Coral Fungi found in the forest

←

Ramariopsis crocea - a yellow Coral Fungus

I remember when Tom May spoke to our Club about Fungi and the Fungimap Project and he compared the fungal diversity of forested land generally with cleared areas. I was suitably impressed by the stark contrast in his data, but, when you start searching and finding so much of interest in such a small area of this forest, his message really comes into sharp focus.

Several members kept lists of the fungi that we found - Anne and Joy have sent me their lists to use in a report on the excursion - we easily found more than 60 species that we concentrated on and photographed in just a few hours. During all of this time we were also very conscious of overlooking many others that were just too small to focus on after so much bending, kneeling and lying down followed by the straightening up after each exercise to closely examine a new fungus specimen. There were also many others that we failed to find because we just didn't manage to cover much of the forest area in our search.

It sounds like hard work but we all kept at it until we had to return home - we must have covered all of 100 metres walking along just 2 or 3 forest tracks. When it was time to leave for home, one group even revisited some of the special fungi to take better photos, while the rest of us made our way back to Bendigo via Glenlyon, stopping for a couple of interesting roadside groups of fungi that we hadn't seen earlier. We even surprised a few of the local residents who must have been concerned by our frequent kneeling and lying down behaviour because they kept themselves at a safe distance from us and just watched.

When I arrived home, I loaded the photos into my computer and started sorting them out - deleting those that didn't quite work out as I had hoped. I was so disappointed with a few of my photos of some really beautiful and unusual fungi, that Jan & I had to travel back and spend the next day in the Daylesford area so that I could try again, taking more care this time.
Of course, the most photographed fungi were still easy to find because they had been knelt or reclined beside by the photographer.

However, one particularly spectacular fungus had been photographed many times by most of us, but it had disappeared completely - the only clues left were mounds of fresh Wombat droppings. After a couple of full days, we were fungussed-out but the recent rain should spark new growth and my interest - it's addictive!

Here are just a few of the fungi that we found (listed thanks to Joy and Anne) and some photographs as well. You can see more of our other members' photographs at 7:30 pm following the Committee Meeting on Wednesday June 16th. Bill suggested that we could each select our best 15 photos and show these to each other and anyone else who is interested in seeing what we had found so if you are interested, please come. You might be able to help us resolve some of our question marks - there are a lot of unknown or poorly known Fungi!

Joy Clusker's Fungus List
Hexagonia tenuis, Small Bracket
Fistulina hepatica, Beefsteak Fungus
Heterotextus miltinus, Golden Jelly-bells
Omphalina umbellifera, Brown Bellybutton
Russula kalimna, Cream gills & Pink cap
Cortinarius archeri, Emperor Cortinar
Russula purpureoflava, Yellow gills & Purple cap
Ramaria ochraceosalmonicolor, Coral Fungus
Cortinarius abnormis, Common Cortinar
Boletus barragensis, A Bolete
Russula sp., Pale Pink cap & White gills
Cortinarius austroalbidus, Australian White Cortinar
Coprinopsis nivea, Snowy Ink-cap
Marasmius alveolaris
Mycena mijori
Dermocybe austroveneta, Green Cortinar
Clitocybe clitocyboides, Funnel-cap
Cortinarius violaceus,
Ramaria sp., rusty-orange colour
Mycena interrupta, Blue Pixie Parasol
Hypholoma sublateritium, Brick-bats
Hypholoma fasciculare, Sulphur-tuft
Boletus emodensis?, shaggy top
Cortinarius lavendulensis
Boletus barragensis, Rubarb & Custard Bolete
Russula persanguinea

Hygrocybe cheelii, Lilac Chantarelle
Amanita sp
Sphaerobolus stellatus, Cannonball Fungus
Ramaria versatilis, Purple Coral Fungus
Mycena albidocapillaris
Armillaria luteobubalina, Australian Honey Fungus
Marasmius affixus, Little Stinker
Cortinarius australiensis
Amanita sp.
Dermoloma sp.?
Macrolepiota clelandii, Slender Parasol Mushroom
Pluteus astromarginatus
Austropaxillus infundibuliformis
Marasmius crinisequi, Horsehair Fungus
Geastrum triplex, Earthstar
Mycena subgalericulata
Xerula australis, rooting Shank
Aleuria australis, Stalked Orangepeel Fungus
Panellus stipticus?
Mycena clarkeana
Podoserpula pusio, Pagoda Fungus
Lycoperdon scabrum, Puffball
Hygrocybe sp., Waxygills
Calocera sp., Pretty Horn
Macrolepiota procera, Parasol Mushroom
Clavicorona piperata, Coral Fungus
Stereum complicatum, Small bracket
Mycena austrofilopes
Podosypha petalodes, Rosette Fungus
Agaricus austrovinaceus
Scleroderma cepa
Amanita sp., pale gills
Mycena viscidocryenta, Ruby mycena
Laccaria lateritia
Austroboletus lacunosus, Brown Tall Bolete
Amanita muscaria, Fly Agaric

Anne Bridley's Fungus List

Agaricus austrovinaceus?, edible forest mushroom
Aleuria aurantia, Orange Peel Fungus
Amanita ochrophylloides, or possibly
A. ochrophylla
Armillaria leuteobubalina, Honey Fungus
Austroboletus lacunosus
Austropaxillus infundibuliformis
Boletellus obscurecoccineus, Rhubarb Bolete
Boletus barragensis
Callocera? sp, Jelly Fungus
Collyba? butyracea?, upturned gills
Cortinarius sinapicolor
Cortinarius alboviolaceus, Violet Cortinar
Cortinarius archeri
Cortinarius australiensis?
Cortinarius sp *aff violaceus*?
Dermocybe cramesina?
Dermocybe sanguinea??
Dermocybe cinnamomea, Cinnamon Cortinar
Dermocybe austroveneta
Fistulum hepatica, Beefsteak Fungus
Geastrum triplex, Earth Star
Hygrocybe cheelii, Rose-pink Waxcap
Hygrocybe coccinea?
Hypholoma australe (*sublateritium*), Brick Cap
Lepista nuda?
Lycoperdon sp., puffball
Marasmius sp., Horsehair Fungus
Mycena interrupta, Pixie's Parasol
Mycena marangama??
Mycena kuurkacea??
Podoserpula pusio, Pagoda Fungus
Ramaria versatilis, Purple Coral Fungus
Russula kalimna
Russula purpureoflava??, stem had Pink Wash
Sphaerobolus stellatus
Stererum hirsutum group (incl. *Stereum complicatum*), Hairy Curtain Crust

You can see from these lists that we generally wandered around separately but often collaborated whenever someone found something spectacular that we all hurried over to see.
If it continues to rain, the fungi will continue growing and make this forest well worth visiting during the next few months, although the weather might not be as perfect, as it was for us on this excursion.

Appeal for help with Kennington Reservoir history project

Bill and Carol Holsworth are currently compiling a history of Kennington Reservoir and are requesting help with any items that could contribute to this project. 'Kenny Res' is the oldest Reservoir in the region, which is still being used for its original purpose.

Bendigo Field Naturalists Club – Speaker Syllabus 2010

DATE	PRESENTER	TITLE
10/02/10	David Cameron, Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research	"Conservation status of the Victorian flora: a progress report on the current review of status using IUCN Red List categories and criteria"
10/03/10	Paul Foley, Bendigo District Astronomical Society	"Astronomy" (including telescope viewing)
14/04/10	Doug Frood, Pathways Bushland and Environment	"Grassy Woodland Restoration"
12/05/10	Peter Marriott, Entomological Society of Victoria	"Moths of Victoria"
9/06/10	Professor Andrew Bennett, Deakin University	"Revegetation in farm landscapes: are there benefits for wildlife?"
14/07/10	Jon Starks, Wimmera Catchment Management Authority	"WCMA Bird Monitoring Project"
11/08/10	Associate Professor Ian Lunt, Charles Sturt University	"Our changing forests and woodlands"
8/09/10	Dr Andrea Kodym, The University of Melbourne	"Lepidosperma (Sword-sedge) Research"
13/10/10	Rodger Elliot AM, Author and Horticulturalist	"The 35-year Journey, Australian Plants A – Z"
10/11/10	Neil Macfarlane, Victorian Malleefowl Recovery Group Inc.	"The Malleefowl Recovery Project"
8/12/10	Rod Orr, Bendigo Field Naturalists Club	"The Canning Stock Route: Plants"

Diary

The General, Bird Observers Group and Fauna Study Group meetings are held at the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, Old High Street, Golden Square, unless otherwise indicated.

General Meetings

Wednesday, June 9 **7.30pm**
Professor Andrew Bennett from Deakin University will talk about "Revegetation in farm landscapes: are there benefits for wildlife?"

Excursions

Great Dividing Trail Flora & Fauna Survey, Sandhurst Reservoir area.
Sat 12 June 2010. We will be continuing the survey which we started last year. Meet at clubrooms at 8:30 am. This is a half day excursion, and we will be back by 12:30pm.
Bring: binoculars, notebook, camera, morning tea, cold weather & rain gear.
Contact: Anne Bridley ph 5442 6188

Flying Foxes Excursion
See page 3 in this issue.

Fauna Group

This group normally meets (in the clubrooms) on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm. New and seasoned Club members are most welcome to attend.

Next Garden Working Bee
will take place on

Saturday June 5th at 1pm.
Note: new time
We are trying the afternoon time, as some people suggested this would suit them better. Will be doing weeding, general maintenance and planting some new plants.

All more than welcome

Wildlife Rescue & Information Network Inc.
W.R.I.N. is an organisation dedicated to the care of orphaned, sick or injured native animals. It is fully endorsed by the Dept of Sustainability and Environment.
Please call our Emergency Number for Help for Fauna in Need. Phone: 0419 356433.

Friends of Box-Ironbark Forests monthly walk
20 June Garfield Wheel & Welsh Village, Castlemaine Diggings NHP
Come on a walk you can do without getting in your car. We'll find a little bit of history and a little bit of bush as we walk across country from Castlemaine to the Garfield Wheel and Welsh Village. 8-10 km easy walking.
For more information ring Deirdre Slattery 54705161 http://www.fobif.org.au/walks.html

Australian Naturalists' Network – Advance Notice
Sixth ANN Get-together
24 August - 4 September 2010
Host: Chinchilla FNC, Qld
Further enquiries: Kath Truscott, email: ann2010@bordernet.com.au

SEANA Spring Camp 2010
Foster North, South Gippsland
Friday 15 - Monday 18 October 2010
Registration & deposit due by 16 July 2010
Contact: Wendy Savage ph. 5634 2246, email wsavage@dcsi.net.au or Phil Rayment ph. 5174 1730, email philrayment@dcsi.net.au

NCCMA Second Generation Landcare Grants 2010 -11. Call for Applications, closing date 5pm Friday 16 July 2010.
Grants of varying sizes are available for projects which are aligned with regional & state priorities.
Contact: Jodie Odgers, Regional Landcare Coordinator 5440 1883
email: jodie.odgers@nccma.voc.gov.au